

08/17/00



JC760 U.S. PTO

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

DUPLICATE

Address to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Box PATENT APPLICATION Washington, DC 20231	Attorney Docket No	EM/LEE/5931
	First Named Inventor (or Identifier)	Vincent K. LEE
	Total Pages	17

 PTO
 06/07/00
 09/14/00
 10/17/00

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Transmitted herewith is a patent application under 37 CFR 1.53(b).

Entitled: MOUSE CASING WITH LIQUID ORNAMENT

- ☒ 1. Submitted herewith are the following:
- 7 pages of specification, including claims and Abstract.
 - 7 sheets of **FORMAL** drawings.
 - 1 claims.
 - 1 Oath/Declaration signed by each inventor.
 - 1 signed Inventor Small Entity Statement.
 - 1 check in the amount of \$345.00.
- ☒ 2. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment and charge any deficiency in any fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and/or 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-0200.
- ☐ 3. Insert before the first sentence of the specification: -- This application claims the benefit of provisional application number _____ filed _____, --
- ☐ 4. Insert before the first sentence of the specification: -- This application is a Continuation-in-part of nonprovisional application number _____ filed _____, --
- ☐ 5. Other: _____

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Correspondence Address: BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 Slaters Lane, 4 th Floor Alexandria, VA 22314-1176				Multiple Dependent Claim (add \$260.00):	0.00
				Subtotal:	690.00
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August 17, 2000	Eugene Mar				25,893

(29Dec1999)

Independent Inventor

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) BY AN INDEPENDENT INVENTOR
CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS UNDER 37 CFR 1.9(F) AND 1.27(b)**

Applicant or Patentee: VINCENT K. LEE
 Serial or Patent Number:
 Filed or issued:
 Title: MOUSE CASING WITH LIQUID ORNAMENT

Docket #:
 Group Art Unit:
 Examiner:

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the matter described in:

- ☒ The specification filed herewith, with the title as listed above.
☐ The patent application identified above.
☐ The PCT international patent application identified above.
☐ The patent number identified above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☒ no such person, concern or organization.
☐ each such person, concern or organization listed below. *Note: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities (37 CFR 1.27).*

FULL NAME:	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual
ADDRESS:	<input type="checkbox"/> Small Business Concern
	<input type="checkbox"/> NonProfit Organization

FULL NAME:	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual
ADDRESS:	<input type="checkbox"/> Small Business Concern
	<input type="checkbox"/> NonProfit Organization

☐ See attached sheet for additional person(s) concern(s) or organization(s).

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine, or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which the verified statement is directed.

INVENTOR'S NAME	DATE	SIGNATURE
VINCENT K. LEE	AUGUST 7, 2000	<i>Vincent K. Lee</i>

MOUSE CASING WITH LIQUID ORNAMENT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to a mouse casing with liquid ornament, and more particularly to a mouse casing having a liquid ornament associated therewith without adverse change in its integral appearance and adverse influence on the functions of a mouse.

10

The rapidly developed technology has largely changed the whole economic environment and people's living style. People obviously demand higher quality of products being used in their daily life. To satisfy most consumers, 15 manufacturers must make every effort to produce novel articles that not only provide some intended functions but also create additional values to attract consumers. An example of such article is the mouse for controlling input of a computer. That is, a mouse with additional 20 functions other than controlling input of a computer would attract more users and therefore become more practical for use.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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It is a primary object of the present invention to provide a mouse casing with a liquid ornament to give the mouse added value.

30 Another object of the present invention is to provide a

mouse casing with a liquid ornament so that the mouse could be used as a desktop ornament even the mouse is failed and could no longer provide its intended functions of controlling input of a computer.

5

To achieve the above and other objects, the mouse casing of the present invention mainly includes a lower case, an upper case, and a liquid ornament. The liquid ornament is configured and sized to match with a hollow space generally defined in the mouse casing below a rear portion of the upper case, at where no functional part or component of the mouse is mounted, so that the liquid ornament could be received in the rear hollow space of the mouse casing to associate with the upper case without changing an integral appearance of the mouse casing or adversely affecting the functions designed for a mouse. The mouse can therefore serve as an ornament at the same time.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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The structure and the technical means adopted by the present invention to achieve the above and other objects can be best understood by referring to the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments and the accompanying drawings, wherein

25

Fig. 1 is an exploded perspective of a mouse casing with liquid ornament according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

30

Fig. 2 is an assembled perspective of the mouse casing
of Fig. 1:

Fig. 3 is a partially sectional view of the mouse casing
5 of Fig. 2:

Figs. 4 and 5 show another two embodiments of the present
invention in which the liquid ornaments are located at
different positions on the mouse casing;

10

Fig. 6 is an exploded perspective of a further embodiment
of the present invention, in which a liquid ornament is
located in a clear mouse casing below a rear portion of
an upper case thereof; and

15

Fig. 7 is an assembled perspective of Fig. 6.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

20 Please refer to Figs. 1 and 2 that are exploded and
assembled perspective views, respectively, of a mouse
casing with liquid ornament according to a first
embodiment of the present invention. As shown, the mouse
casing mainly includes a lower case 1, an upper case 2,
25 and a liquid ornament 3.

As it is known that a rear portion of a common mouse casing
at where a user usually contacts the mouse for moving the
same actually defines a rear hollow space therein. Since
30 there is not any functional part or component of the mouse

mounted in this rear hollow space, it is convenient to use the space to create additional functions and value for the mouse by, for example, mounting some decorative thing, for example, the liquid ornament 3, in the rear hollow space without adversely affecting the intended usage and functions of the mouse.

In the embodiment of Figs. 1 and 2, the lower and the upper cases 1, 2 of the mouse casing are made of an opaque material. In this case, the upper case 2 is shortened by cutting off the rear portion thereof that is usually held by a user. The liquid ornament 3 is so designed that it has configuration and dimensions suitable for associating with the shortened upper case 2 of the mouse casing in any appropriate manner for the mouse casing to maintain an integral and smooth appearance. In the embodiment of Fig. 1, the shortened upper case 2 is provided along a rear end thereof with an internally stepped edge 21, and the liquid ornament 3 is provided along a front end thereof with an externally stepped edge 31 corresponding to the internally stepped edge 21 of the upper case 2, so that the stepped edge 31 could be detachably engaged with the stepped edge 21 in a tight fit manner to firmly connect the liquid ornament 3 to the rear end of the shortened upper case 2 of the mouse casing, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. Alternatively, the liquid ornament 3 could be associated with the mouse casing by applying a suitable adhesive over the rear end of the shortened upper case 2 and the front end of the liquid ornament 3 to glue the liquid ornament 3 to the upper case

2. It is understood that there are still many other suitable ways for connecting the liquid ornament 3 to the upper case 2 without departing from the spirit of the invention.

5

It is appreciated that the liquid ornament 3 is not necessarily occupying a whole rear portion of the mouse casing. In Figs. 4 and 5, another two embodiments of the present invention are shown, in which the liquid ornaments
10 3 have reduced dimensions compared with that in the embodiment of Fig. 1 and could therefore be mounted to different positions within the rear portion of the mouse casing to create more changes in the appearance of the mouse casing without adversely affecting the use and the
15 functions of the mouse.

Figs. 6 and 7 illustrate a further embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the lower and the upper case 1, 2 of the mouse casing are made of a transparent material. In this case, the upper case 2 is not necessarily to be shortened by cutting off a rear portion thereof. Instead, the upper case 2 may keep its complete configuration as usually designed for it and the liquid ornament 3 of a suitable shape and dimensions is
20 directly mounted in the rear hollow space in the mouse casing by any suitable means, such as by gluing it to an upper surface of the lower case 1, so that the liquid ornament 3 could be directly seen from outside of the upper case 2.
25

What is claimed is:

A mouse casing with liquid ornament, comprising a lower case, an upper case, and a liquid ornament; said liquid
5 ornament being so configured and sized that it could be firmly and visibly received in a hollow space generally defined in said mouse casing below a rear portion of said upper case to associate with said upper case without causing undesired change in an integral appearance of said
10 mouse casing or adverse influence on any function designed for a mouse.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A mouse casing including a lower case, an upper case, and a liquid ornament is provided. The liquid ornament is
5 configured and sized to match with a hollow space generally defined in the mouse casing below a rear portion of the upper case, so that it could be received in the rear hollow space of the mouse casing to associate with the upper case without changing an integral appearance
10 of the mouse casing or adversely affecting the functions designed for a mouse. The mouse can therefore serve as an ornament at the same time.

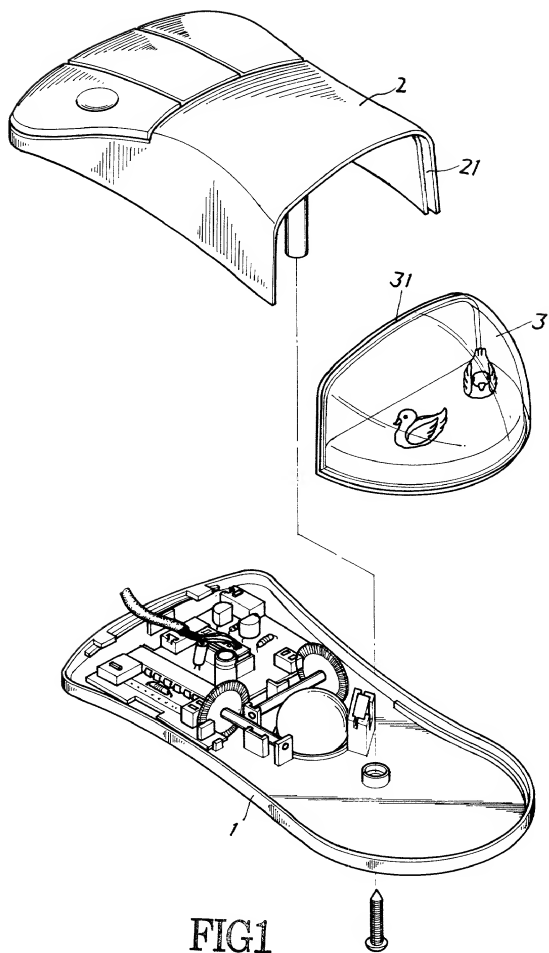


FIG1

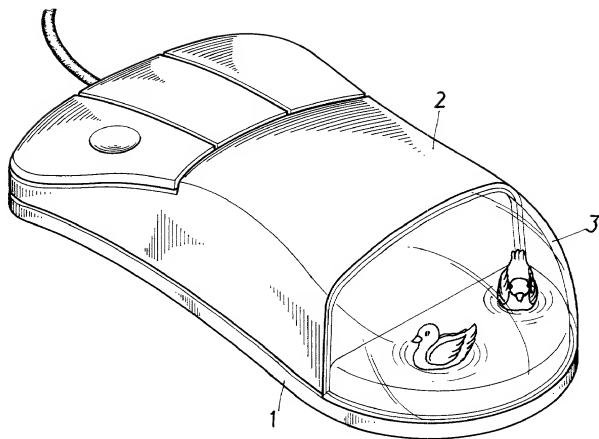


FIG2

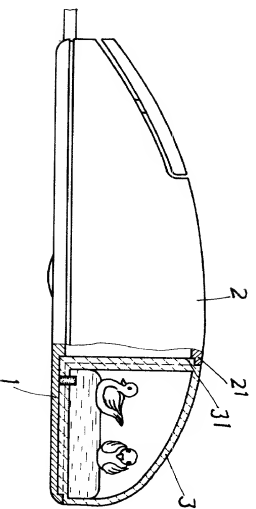


FIG3

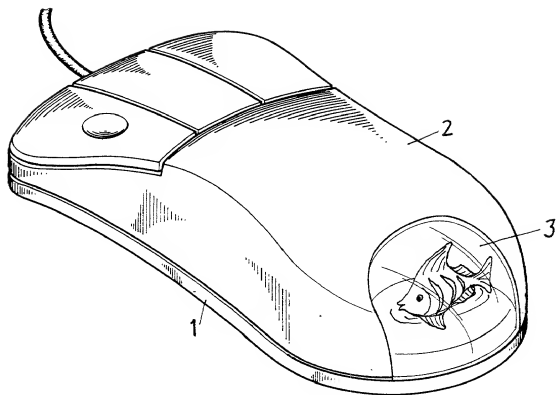


FIG4

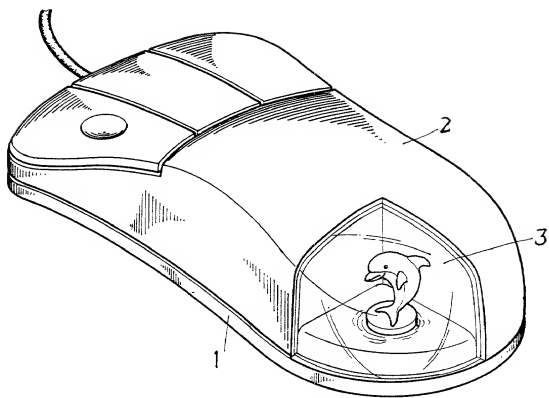


FIG5

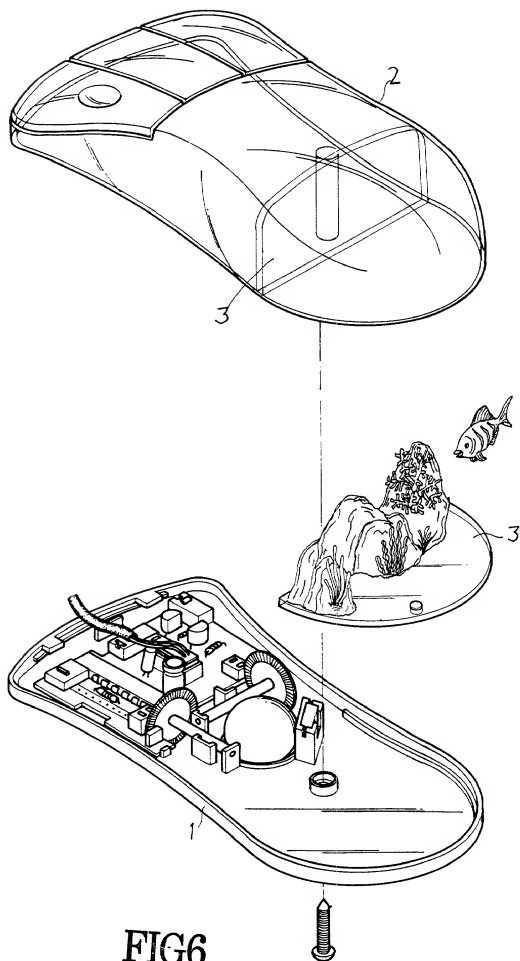


FIG6

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name: I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention (Design, if applicable) entitled:

MOUSE CASING WITH LIQUID ORNAMENT

the specification of which (check one):

☒ is attached hereto, or ☐ was filed on:

as U.S. Application Number or PCT International Application

Number:

and (if applicable) was amended on:

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendments referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56. I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)			PRIORITY CLAIMED	
Number	Country	Day/Month/Year Filed	Yes	No

☐ Additional Priority Application(s) Listed on following Page(s)

I HEREBY CLAIM THE BENEFIT UNDER TITLE 35 U.S. CODE §119(E) OF ANY U.S. PROVISIONAL APPLICATIONS LISTED BELOW.	
Application Number	Day/Month/Year Filed

☐ Additional Provisional Application(s) Listed on following Page(s)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating The United States of America listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application Number	Filing Date	Status - Patented, Pending or Abandoned

☐ Additional US/PCT Priority Application(s) listed on following Page(s)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: I (We) hereby appoint as my (our) attorneys, with full powers of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: J. Ernest Kenney, Reg. No. 19,179; Eugene Mar. Reg. No. 25,893; Richard E. Fichter, Reg. No. 26,382; Charles R. Wolfe, Jr., Reg. No. 28,680; Thomas J. Moore, Reg. No. 28,974; Joseph DeBenedictis, Reg. No. 28,502; Benjamin E. Urcia, Reg. No. 33,805; Chung C. Chen, Reg. No. 31,725; and

I (we) authorize my (our) attorneys to accept and follow instructions from **JENG ANE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE** regarding any matter related to the preparation, examination, grant and maintenance of this application, any continuation, continuation-in-part or divisional based thereon, and any patent resulting therefrom, until I (we) or my (our) assigns withdraw this authorization in writing.

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DATE AUGUST 7, 2000	SIGNATURE <i>Vincent K. Lee</i>

☐ See following page(s) for additional joint inventors.